



# Washington State Department of Agriculture

## News Release

For immediate release: Oct. 17, 2005 (05-47)

Contact: Ann Wick (360) 902-2051  
Mike Louisell (360) 902-1813

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

### **Hearings slated for Wenatchee, Yakima, Olympia in November**

### **Pesticide notification rule proposed near institutions with sensitive populations**

**OLYMPIA** – Facilities that serve young, old or sick people would have to be given advanced notice before certain pesticides could be applied near them, according to a rule proposed by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

According to the proposed rule, applicators would be required to give two days written notice before applying some pesticides near schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and state-licensed adult or child day care centers. The advanced notice would allow facility operators to take any additional precautions necessary for their students or patients.

The notification rule is limited to pesticides carrying a “Danger/Poison” label. Examples include fumigants such as methyl bromide or chloropicrin, insecticides such as endosulfan or azinphos-methyl, and herbicides such as paraquat.

Several other conditions *must* apply before notification becomes mandatory under the proposal:

- The application is made aerially with aircraft or with an airblast sprayer, an outside fumigation, or by overhead chemigation methods.
- The pesticide is being applied on property that touches the property boundary (excluding a right-of-way) of a school, hospital, nursing home or state-licensed adult or child day care center. Notification applies to day care centers, not unlicensed or small-home child day cares.
- The application site is within one-half mile of the touching property boundaries of one of the listed sites. For example, applications made more than one-half mile away from a listed site would not require notification even though they share a property boundary.

The proposed regulation doesn’t prohibit the application of any pesticide and all of WSDA’s regulations regarding spray drift remain in force. It also doesn’t require notification when pesticide applications involve other technologies such as hand wands, boom sprayers, rill irrigation or granular applications.

“We want this regulation to serve as an additional safety factor by encouraging communication between growers and their neighbors,” said Ann Wick, manager of the Program Development Branch of WSDA’s Pesticide Management Division.

WSDA has received very few complaints about spray drift occurring near schools or hospitals. The rule is being proposed primarily in response to requests WSDA has received in the past from citizens wanting more notification about pesticide applications.

A temporary advisory committee studying ways to reduce pesticide exposure from drift during aerial and airblast

MORE

spray operations met three times in all-day meetings to consider proposals. The voluntary group consisted of public health and state agriculture regulatory officials, educators, and representatives from pesticide, agricultural and environmental groups.

Four hearings are scheduled as follows on the proposal:

- **Wenatchee:** Nov. 2 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Wenatchee Valley Community College, Anderson Room 2047, 1300 5<sup>th</sup> St.
- **Yakima:** Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at the WSDA office, 21 N 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Suite 236.
- **Olympia:** Nov. 14 at 3 p.m. at WSDA headquarters, Second Floor, Room 259, 1111 Washington St. SE.

The rules would update Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 16-228, General Pesticide Rules. Information is available at [http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/Airblast\\_Sprayer.htm](http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/Pesticides/Airblast_Sprayer.htm). Under the “hot topics” section on the Web page, two fact sheets are posted, including one for applicators and one for the sites to be notified. The information briefly describes the responsibilities under this proposed rule.

WSDA enforces state and federal laws to protect people, property and the environment against the improper use of pesticides. Staff also provides technical assistance to the pesticide industry and consumers, and enforces rules on structural inspections for wood destroying organisms. About 200 allegations of improper distribution or misuse of pesticides, or faulty structural inspections are investigated each year.

Persons with additional questions can contact Ann Wick, at (360) 902-2051 or e-mail her at [awick@agr.wa.gov](mailto:awick@agr.wa.gov). A toll-free number is available at (877) 301-4555.

For a copy of the proposed rules, call Laurie Mauerman at (360) 902-2012 or access the WSDA Web site at <http://agr.wa.gov/LawsRules/Rulemaking/PM/Airblast.htm#docs>.

Written or e-mailed comments are encouraged. Send to: Dannie McQueen, Washington State Department of Agriculture, PO Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560; by e-mail to [dmcqueen@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dmcqueen@agr.wa.gov), or by fax to (360) 902-2093. The deadline is 5 p.m. Nov. 15.

###